

Sing with Understanding: Stories of Our Great Hymns, Part Two

Recommended online resources:

Hymns of the Faith, radio series, with Ligon Duncan, Derek Thomas, Bill Wymond, www.fpcjackson.org/resource-library/series-index/radio-series-hymns-of-the-faith

Insanity and Spiritual Songs in the Soul of a Saint: Reflections on the Life of William Cowper, by John Piper, <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/insanity-and-spiritual-songs-in-the-soul-of-a-saint>

<https://hymnary.org/>

Menuit Chretiens!/O Holy Night (1843)

Placide Cappeau

Literal English translation

Midnight, Christians, is the solemn hour,
When God as man descended unto us
To erase the stain of original sin
And to end the wrath of His Father.
The entire world thrills with hope
On this night that gives it a Saviour.
People, kneel down, await your deliverance.
Christmas, Christmas, here is the Redeemer,
Christmas, Christmas, here is the Redeemer!

May the ardent light of our Faith
Guide us all to the cradle of the infant,
As in ancient times a brilliant star
Guided the Oriental kings there.
The King of Kings was born in a humble manger;
O mighty ones of today, proud of your greatness,
It is to your pride that God preaches.
Bow your heads before the Redeemer!
Bow your heads before the Redeemer!

The Redeemer has broken every bond:
The Earth is free, and Heaven is open.
He sees a brother where there was only a slave,
Love unites those that iron had chained.
Who will tell Him of our gratitude,
For all of us He is born, He suffers and dies.
People, stand up! Sing of your deliverance,
Christmas, Christmas, sing of the Redeemer,
Christmas, Christmas, sing of the Redeemer!

Adaptation by John Sullivan Dwight (1855)

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of our dear Saviour's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appear'd and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born;
O night divine, O night, O night Divine.

Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here come the wise men from the Orient land.
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger;
In all our trials born to be our friend.
He knows our need, to our weaknesses no stranger,
Behold your King! Before Him lowly bend!
Behold your King, Before Him lowly bend!

Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother;
And in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord! O praise His Name forever,
His power and glory evermore proclaim.
His power and glory evermore proclaim.

If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee

Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall. Ps. 55:22

1. If thou but suf - fer God to guide thee, and hope in
 2. What can these anx - ious cares a - vail thee, these nev - er -
 3. On - ly be still, and wait his lei - sure in cheer - ful
 4. All are a - like be - fore the High - est; 'tis eas - y
 5. Sing, pray, and keep his ways un - swerv - ing, so do thine

him through all thy ways, he'll give thee strength, what - e'er be - tide thee,
 ceas - ing moans and sighs? What can it help, if thou be - wail thee
 • hope, with heart con - tent to take what - e'er thy Fa - ther's plea - sure
 to our God, we know, to raise thee up though low thou li - est,
 own part faith - ful - ly, and trust his Word— though un - de - serv - ing,

and bear thee through the e - vil days: Who trusts in God's un -
 o'er each dark mo - ment as it flies? Our cross and tri - als
 • and all - dis - cern - ing love hath sent; nor doubt our in - most
 to make the rich man poor and low; true won - ders still by
 thou yet shalt find it true for thee; God nev - er yet for -

chang - ing love builds on the Rock that naught can move.
 do but press the heav - ier for our bit - ter - ness.
 • wants are known to him who chose us for his own.
 him are wrought who set - teth up and brings to naught.
 sook at need the soul that trust - ed him in - deed.

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today (1739)

Charles Wesley

“Christ the Lord is ris’n to day,”
Sons of men and angels say,
Raise your joys and triumphs high,
Sing ye heav’ns, and earth reply.

Love’s redeeming work is done,
Fought the fight, the battle won,
Lo! Our sun’s eclipse is o’er,
Lo! He sets in blood no more.

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal;
Christ has burst the gates of hell!
Death in vain forbids his rise:
Christ has open’d paradise!

Lives again our glorious King,
Where, O death, is now thy sting?
Dying once he all doth save,
Where thy victory, O grave?

Soar we now, where Christ has led?
Following our exalted head,
Made like him, like him we rise,
Ours the cross—the grave—the skies!

What tho’ once we perish’d all,
Partners in our parent’s fall?
Second life we all receive,
In our heav’nly Adam live.

Ris’n with him, we upward move,
Still we seek the things above,
Still pursue, and kiss the Son
Seated on his Father’s throne;

Scarce on earth a thought bestow,
Dead to all we leave below,
Heav’n our aim, and lov’d abode,
Hid our life with Christ in God!

Hid; till Christ our life appear,
Glorious in his members here:
Join’d to him, we then shall shine
All immortal, all divine!

Hail the Lord of earth and heav’n!
Praise to thee by both be giv’n:
Thee we greet triumphant now;
Hail the resurrection thou!

King of Glory, soul of bliss,
Everlasting life is this,
Thee to know, thy pow’r to prove,
Thus to sing, and thus to love!

...most hymnals
...incl. *Trinity Hymnal*

Te Deum (4th century)

Attr. St. Ambrose

English translation from *Book of Common Prayer*

We praise thee, O God, we acknowledge thee to be the Lord.

All the earth doth worship thee, the Father everlasting.
To thee all Angels cry aloud, the Heavens, and all the Powers therein.

To thee Cherubim and Seraphim continually do cry,
Holy, Holy, Holy: Lord God of Hosts;
Heaven and earth are full of the Majesty of thy glory.

The glorious company of the Apostles praise thee.
The goodly fellowship of the Prophets praise thee.
The noble army of Martyrs praise thee.
The holy Church throughout all the world doth acknowledge thee;

The Father of an infinite Majesty;
Thine honourable, true : and only Son;
Also the Holy Ghost : the Comforter.

Thou art the King of Glory: O Christ.
Thou art the everlasting Son: of the Father.
When thou tookest upon thee to deliver man: thou didst not abhor
the Virgin's womb.
When thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death
Thou didst open the Kingdom of Heaven to all believers.

Thou sittest at the right hand of God in the glory of the Father.
We believe that thou shalt come to be our Judge.

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name (1771)

Ignaz Franz, 11 stanzas

trans. Clarence Walworth (1858), 8 stanzas

Holy God, we praise Thy Name;
Lord of all, we bow before Thee!
All on earth Thy scepter claim,
All in Heaven above adore Thee;
Infinite Thy vast domain,
Everlasting is Thy reign.

Hark! the loud celestial hymn
Angel choirs above are raising,
Cherubim and seraphim,
In unceasing chorus praising;
Fill the heavens with sweet accord:
Holy, holy, holy, Lord.

Lo! the apostolic train
Join the sacred Name to hallow;
Prophets swell the loud refrain,
And the white robed martyrs follow;
And from morn to set of sun,
Through the Church the song goes on.

Holy Father, Holy Son,
Holy Spirit, Three we name Thee;
While in essence only One,
Undivided God we claim Thee;
And adoring bend the knee,
While we own the mystery.

Thou art King of glory, Christ:
Son of God, yet born of Mary;
For us sinners sacrificed,
And to death a tributary:
First to break the bars of death,
Thou hast opened Heaven to faith.

From Thy high celestial home,
Judge of all, again returning,
We believe that Thou shalt come
In the dreaded doomsday morning;
When Thy voice shall shake the earth,
And the startled dead come forth.

We therefore pray thee, help thy servants:
whom thou hast redeemed with thy precious blood.

Make them to be numbered with thy Saints: in glory everlasting.

O Lord, save thy people and bless thine heritage.
Govern them and lift them up for ever.
Day by day we magnify thee;
And we worship thy Name ever world without end.
Vouchsafe, O Lord to keep us this day without sin.
O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.
O Lord, let thy mercy lighten upon us, as our trust is in thee.
O Lord, in thee have I trusted: let me never be confounded.

Therefore do we pray Thee, Lord:
Help Thy servants whom, redeeming
By Thy precious blood out-poured,
Thou hast saved from Satan's scheming.
Give to them eternal rest
In the glory of the blest.

Spare Thy people, Lord, we pray,
By a thousand snares surrounded:
Keep us without sin today,
Never let us be confounded.
Lo, I put my trust in Thee;
Never, Lord, abandon me.

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I Will Sing of My Redeemer

Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us. Titus 2:13, 14

1. I will sing of my Re - deem - er, and his
 2. I will tell the won - drous sto - ry, how my
 3. I will praise my dear Re - deem - er, his tri -
 4. I will sing of my Re - deem - er and his

won - drous love to me: on the cru - el cross he
 lost es - tate to save, in his bound - less love and
 um - phant pow'r I'll tell, how the vic - to - ry he
 heav'n - ly love to me; he from death to life has

suf - fered, from the curse to set me free.
 mer - cy, he the ran - som free - ly gave.
 giv - eth o - ver sin and death and hell.
 brought me, Son of God, with him to be.

LOVE FOR CHRIST

REFRAIN

♩ G C G 7

Sing, O sing of my Re - deem - er!
Sing, O sing of my Re - deem - er! Sing, O sing of my Re - deem - er!

D7 G

He pur - chased me,
With his blood he pur - chased me;
With his blood he pur - chased me, he pur - chased me;
He pur - chased me, with his blood he pur - chased me;

C G

on the cross he sealed my par - don,
on the cross he sealed my par - don, on the cross he sealed my par - don,

♩ D G D G C/G G 7

paid the debt and made me free.
paid the debt and made me free, and made me free, and made me free.